Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 23, 2001 TO APRIL 27, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Retail Sales ($millions)	February			Canadian retail sales fell 0.3% in February after advancing 0.5% in January and 1.0% in December. Consumers spent less in the automotive sector (-1.8%), furniture sector (-1.5%) and the clothing sector (-0.7%). Retail sales declined in all provinces except British Columbia (1.5%). Nova Scotia (-4.7%), Prince Edward Island (-2.0%) Newfoundland and New Brunswick (-0.9%) had the largest decreases.
Alberta	2,778	-0.4%	5.2%	
Canada	23,642	-0.3%	1.5%	
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	March 166.6	-0.1%	4.1%	The Composite Leading Index fell by -0.1% in March. Five of the ten components declined, with the largest decreases recorded in the stock market (4.5%) and new orders of durables (1.1%). The largest gains were in furniture and appliance sales (1.9%) and the M1 money supply (0.7%).
Average Weekly Earnings (S.A.)	February			In February, average weekly earnings (AWE) in Alberta rose by 0.5% over the previous month, the highest increase among all provinces. Newfoundland (0.4%), Nova Scotia (0.4%), Saskatchewan (0.3%) British Columbia (0.3%) and New Brunswick (0.1%) all experienced gains. Prince Edward Island (-0.7%) had the largest decrease. Alberta had the second highest level of AWE among provinces behind Ontario ($703.04).
Alberta	678.23	0.5%	2.9%	
Canada	660.22	0.0%	1.9%	
Gross Domestic Product United States Real (Chained, $Billions)	Q1, 2001 9439.9	0.5%[a]	2.0%[b]	United States GDP growth was 2.0% at annual rates in the first quarter, about double expectations. All major components matched or beat expectations, with durable goods increasing 11.9% and consumer spending increasing 3.1% from the first quarter of 2000. Inventories fell $7.1 billion, but the trade surplus was stronger than expected due to lower imports.

[a] From 4rth quarter 2000
[b] From 1st quarter 2000